

Appl. No. 09/639,825
Amdt. dated May 11, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938) in view of Yamamoto (US 6,061,150) for reasons of record.

Response:

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of independent claims 1, 6, and 17, and would like to point out the patentable differences between these claims and the cited prior art references of Hayakawa and Yamamoto. The Examiner has stated in the Response to Arguments section of the above-indicated office action that Hayakawa shows in col.4, lines 8-22 that the image scanner transfers data to a host computer without the need of a host for controlling image data transmission.

The image scanner 1 taught by Hayakawa contains switches 3 for changing modes of operation of the scanner. Although pressing switches 3 on the scanner 1 can initiate the process of scanning an image or the process of transferring the image to the host computer 21, it does not follow that the scanner 1 can perform these operations without the need of a host. Typically, scanners connected to a computer are called peripheral devices, and the computer acts as a host device. Pressing a button on a scanner initiates scanning process by sending an interrupt to the computer. Upon receiving the interrupt, the computer opens image processing software for controlling the scanner to scan an image or a document. Thus, the computer is acting as a host to the scanner peripheral. The setup and procedures just described are well known by those skilled in the art. On the other hand, there is nothing stated in the Hayakawa patent that would lead one skilled in the art to believe that the scanner 1 is not acting in the typical manner just described, and to believe that the scanner 1 is acting as a host and not relying on the host computer 21 to be a host.

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Yamamoto also teaches in col.8, lines 4-9 and in Figures 1, 3, and 4 that a CPU 1003 of the core section 10 of the external device 3 issues a scan command to the reader unit 1 to perform a scanning operation. In response, the reader unit 1 scans an image and outputs the image data. Thus, it is clear that the external device 3 serves as a host for controlling the reader unit 1 to scan images.

In summary, neither Hayakawa nor Yamamoto teach a scanner transmitting image data to a portable storage device without the need of a host to control image data transmission, as is recited in each of the independent claims 1, 6, and 17. For the reasons explained above, the applicant submits that each of these independent claims is patentably distinct from the cited prior art, and reconsideration of claims 1, 6, and 17 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 7, 9-10, 13-14, and 18-19 are dependent on the independent claims 1, 6, and 17, and should be allowed if claims 1, 6, and 17 are allowed.

2. Rejection of claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. and Yamamoto in view of Puzio (US 6,332,663) for reasons of record.

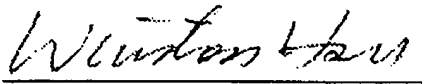
Response:

Claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 are dependent on the independent claims 1, 6, and 17, and should be allowed if claims 1, 6, and 17 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 11-12, 15-16, and 20-21 is requested.

In light of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan).